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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Takehiko SHIGEFUJI et al
Appl. No : 09/680,293
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(parent filed July 2, 1997)
For : PUNCHING TOOL PROVIDED WITH TOOL IDENTIFICATION
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Group Art Unit : 3724
Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

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PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.56 and 37 C.F.R. 1.97-1.98, Applicants hereby direct the Examiner's attention to the following documents, each of which was cited in parent Application No. 08/887,279 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,163,734).

The following documents were cited by Applicants in the Information Disclosure Statement of November 14, 1997 in parent Application No. 08/887,279:

Japanese Laid-open Patent Publication No. JP 63-174733, published on July 19, 1988, along with an English language Abstract thereof. An English language translation of relevant portions thereof was submitted in the Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement of October 5, 1999.

Japanese Laid-open Patent Publication No. JP 7-164073, published on June 27, 1995 (corresponding to U.S. Patent No. 5,595,560).

Japanese Laid-open Patent Publication No. JP 4-15377, published on January 20, 1992, along with an English language Abstract thereof.

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U.S. Patent No. 5,595,560 to KAMADA, issued on January 21, 1997, a counterpart of JP 7-164073 above.

Japanese Laid-open Patent Publication No. JP 4-108931, published on September 21, 1992, along with an English language translation thereof.

Japanese Laid-open Patent Publication No. JP 4-262826, published on September 18, 1992, along with an English language Abstract thereof.

Japanese Laid-open Patent Publication No. JP 3-239451, published on October 25, 1991, along with an English language Abstract thereof. An English language translation of relevant portions thereof was submitted in the Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement of October 5, 1999.

Japanese Laid-open Patent Publication No. JP 3-294029, published on December 25, 1991, along with an English language Abstract thereof.

Japanese Laid-open Patent Publication No. JP 6-292930, published on October 21, 1994, along with an English language Abstract thereof.

U.S. Patent No. 5,983,688 to ANZAI et al., issued on November 16, 1999 (having been cited as, and having matured from, U.S. Patent Application No. 08/832,509).

U.S. Patent No. 5,943,240 to NAKAMURA, issued on August 24, 1999 (having been cited as, and having matured from, U.S. Patent Application No. 08/728,181).

The following documents were cited by the Examiner in the Official Action of March 2, 1999 in parent Application No. 08/887,279:

U.S. Patent No. 3,628,231 to PANCOOK, issued on December 21, 1971.

U.S. Patent No. 3,686,992 to DANIELS, issued on August 29, 1972.

U.S. Patent No. 4,257,292 to FAULL, issued on March 24, 1981.

U.S. Patent No. 4,440,052 to WEISBECK, issued on April 3, 1984.

U.S. Patent No. 4,457,196 to CADY, issued on July 3, 1984.

U.S. Patent No. 4,862,782 to ERNST, issued on September 5, 1989.

U.S. Patent No. 5,133,237 to DAFPE, issued on July 28, 1992.

U.S. Patent No. 5,342,276 to FUJIWARA et al., issued on August 30, 1994.

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The following documents were cited by Applicants in the Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement of October 5, 1999 in parent Application No. 08/887,279:

Japanese Laid-open Patent Publication No. JP 63-154228, published on June 27, 1988, along with a English language translation of relevant portions thereof.

Japanese Laid-open Patent Publication No. JP 5-9715, published on February 9, 1993, along with a English language translation of relevant portions thereof.

The following documents were cited by the Examiner in the Official Action of October 5, 1999 in parent Application No. 08/887,279:

U.S. Patent No. 3,657,627 to INABA et al., issued on April 18, 1972.

U.S. Patent No. 4,109,188 to SHIMA et al., issued on August 22, 1978.

U.S. Patent No. 4,356,621 to TOMITA et al., issued on November 2, 1982.

U.S. Patent No. 4,620,362 to REYNOLDS, issued on November 4, 1986.

U.S. Patent No. 4,720,907 to RAPP, issued on January 26, 1986.

U.S. Patent No. 4,856,177 to TAKEUCHI et al., issued on August 15, 1989.

U.S. Patent No. 5,046,014 to ANJO, issued on September 3, 1991.

U.S. Patent No. 5,193,421 to MEISINGER, issued on May 16, 1993.

U.S. Patent No. 4,533,823 to VITTORIO, issued on August 6, 1985.

U.S. Patent No. 4,592,146 to CAMPBELL, issued on June 3, 1986.

U.S. Patent No. 4,631,465 to FUKUYAMA et al., issued on December 23, 1986.

U.S. Patent No. 4,900,252 to LEIFKE et al., issued on February 13, 1990.

U.S. Patent No. 4,922,591 to CAMPBELL, issued on May 8, 1990.

Japanese Laid-open Patent Publication No. 62-120945, published on June 2, 1987.

Japanese Laid-open Patent Publication No. 1-321149, published on December 2, 1989.

Japanese Laid-open Patent Publication No. 2-172646, published on July 4, 1990.

Except for U.S. Patent Nos. 5,983,688 and 5,943,240, copies of the above materials are not supplied, since each was either cited and provided by Applicants, or

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cited by the Examiner, in parent Application No. 08/887,279, which therefore complies with 37 C.F.R. 1.98(d) regarding the copies. However, Applicants will supply copies to the Examiner if deemed necessary. Copies of U.S. Patent Nos. 5,983,688 and 5,943,240, which have matured into U.S. Patents since being cited as copending and commonly assigned U.S. Patent Applications in parent Application No. 08/887,279, are supplied herewith.

A duly completed Form PTO-1449 is provided for the Examiner's convenience. The Examiner is accordingly requested to consider each item of information, and to make the documents of record in this application by initialing in the appropriate space on the Form PTO-1449. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner include a copy of the initialed Form PTO-1449 with the next communication from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments regarding this matter, the undersigned may be contacted at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
Takehiko SHIGEFUJI et al.

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January 8, 2001
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